

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein stretching the loop component is done manually.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of stretching the loop component comprises stretching said loop component by about 150 to 300 percent.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of stretching the loop component comprises stretching said loop component by about 300 to 450 percent.

20 - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for securing engagement between fastening components of an article used for personal wear, the fastening components comprising a hook component and a loop component, the loop component comprising a stretchable loop material secured to a stretchable substrate, the hook component being capable of fastening engagement with the loop material of the loop component, the method comprising the steps of:

arranging the fastening components in at least partially opposed relationship with each other;

engaging the fastening components with each other to define an engagement seam whereby the hook component fastenably engages the loop material of the loop component; and

contracting said loop component relative to said hook component at said engagement seam following engagement of the fastening components to thereby urge sliding movement of one fastening component relative to the other fastening component at the engagement seam to promote increased engagement between the fastening components at the engagement seam, said contracting including contracting of said stretchable loop material and contracting of said stretchable substrate.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein ~~the substrate of the loop component is elastomeric whereby the loop component defined by securement of the loop material to the elastomeric substrate is elastomeric, and wherein~~ said method further comprises stretching said loop component prior to engaging the fastening components with each other such that the portion of the loop component to be secured to the hook component is stretched, wherein said stretching includes stretching of said stretchable loop material and stretching of said stretchable substrate, said urging step comprising releasing said loop component following engagement of the fastening components such that said loop component

retracts relative to said hook component at the engagement seam.

28 - 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method of securing an absorbent article in a fastened configuration for personal wear, said method comprising:

forming an absorbent article to have a body having first and second end regions, the body comprising an inner layer for contact with a wearer's skin wherein at least a portion of said inner layer is liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer;

positioning a mechanical fastening system on the body, the mechanical fastening system comprising a loop component and a hook component, the loop component comprising [[a]] an elastomeric loop material secured to an elastomeric substrate such that the loop component is elastomeric at the loop material, the hook component being fastenably engageable with the loop material of the loop component;

stretching the loop component at the loop material which includes stretching both said loop material and said substrate;

engaging the hook component and the loop component whereby the hook component fastenably engages the loop material of the loop component; and

allowing the loop component to retract at the loop material which includes retraction of said loop material and retraction of said substrate.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said elastomeric loop component has a stretchability of at least about 150 percent, the step of stretching the loop component comprising stretching said loop component by up to about the stretchability of said loop component.